



4H PHOTOGRAPHY 2025





PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

1. All images are to be original images taken by the 4-H member and taken since the last project entry date of the county fair.
2. Each member is **RECOMMENDED** to complete the Photography Record Sheet and 3 activities in the Photography project manual. The completed record sheet and manual are **ENCOURAGED** to be turned in with the project exhibited at the project judging check-in.
3. Identification label will be placed in the lower right hand corner on all entries. Be sure to leave room on 10 print boards. The label will be placed at project check-in.
4. You may exhibit multiple entries—however, you may only enter one exhibit in each category (so up to 5 possible entries per person).
5. You do not need to attend workshops but you are highly encourage, all will be different and full of information on making your photos the best they can be.

We try to make the photoshoots as fun as possible and are there to help and answer questions.

PHOTO GUIDELINES

- Images may be taken with a film camera, digital camera, cell phone, or other electronic devices.
- Editing photos such as cropping, color adjustment, sharpening and other enhancements are considered to be part of the normal photography educational learning process and are permissible.
- Replacing any pixels of the original digital image is to be entered in the creative/experimental category. This includes, but not limited to, using artificial intelligence (AI), any erasing tool, healing tool, patch tool, or any tool that replaces any of the original pixels.

EXHIBITS—ALL LEVELS

Choose one or more of the following:

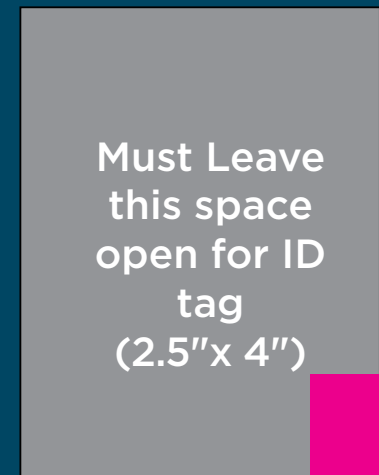
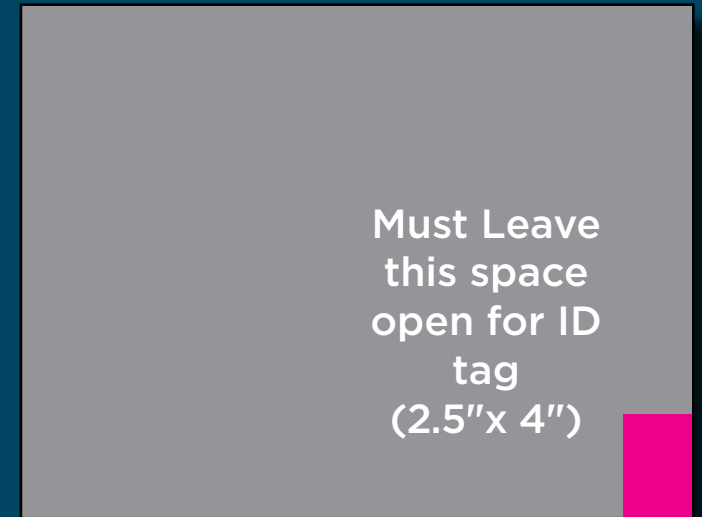
- **Black and White Print Board (10 photos)**
- **Color Print Board (10 photos)**
- **Black and White Salon Print**
- **Color Salon Print**
- **Creative/Experimental Salon Print**

***Sepia tone photographs (mono chromatic) are to be entered as black and white photos.**

ALL EXHIBITS

Must have:

- Name, age and club on back as well as the make and model of camera used.
- No captions
- Mounted on stiff backing (foam board, corrugated board, thin paneling, thin luan board)
- Covered with plastic
- Leave right hand corner blank (2.5"x 4" label)
- Foam boards and plastic sleeves are available at meetings or in the extension office during business hours.



JUDGING AND PROJECT CHECK-IN

- You will need to turn in at least 1 exhibit with name, age, club and type of camera used on the back.

The completed record sheet and manual are optional but encouraged.

- Judges are hired by the extension office. Project leaders have nothing to do with how your entries are judged. We don't always agree with the judges but we have no input.
- Presentation matters! Be neat and clean when prepping your boards.
- Technical considerations, composition, lighting, impact creativity and originality are key considerations by the judges.
- You do not have to stay for judging but we highly recommend that you do. Feedback from the judges can be very educational and they may score you higher after a discussion about how and why you created an image.

JUDGING AND PROJECT CHECK-IN DATE

**Saturday, July 12, 2025
Farm Bureau Inc Community Building**

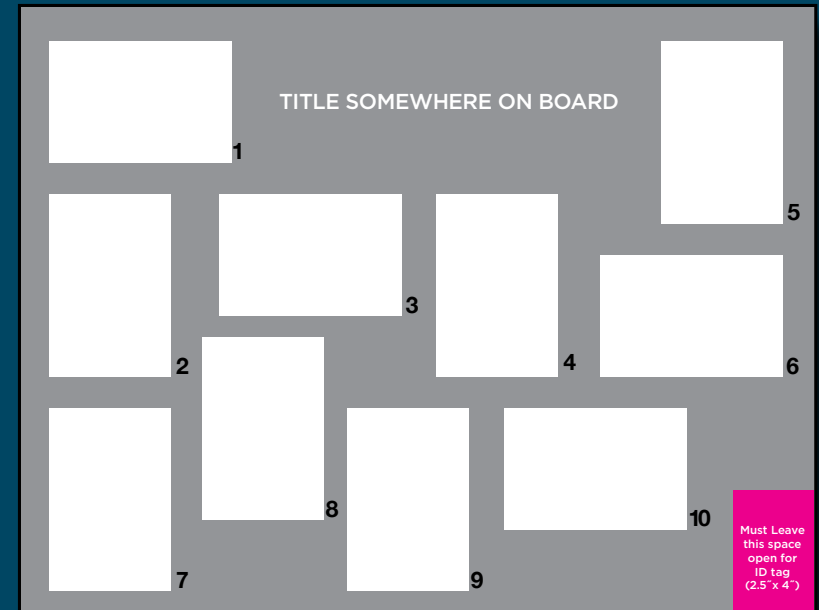
CHECK-IN JUDGING (Times are approximate)

Grades 3-5	8:30-9:00 am
Grades 6-8	10:00-10:30 am
Grades 9-12	11:30-Noon

If you are dropping off a photography project and not staying for judging then you can drop off anytime between 8:30am—11:30am.

10 PRINT BOARDS

- Create a title of choice
- Displayed horizontally on 22"x 28" board
- Number photo prints on your board 1 to 10
- The board may be of white or any color or texture
- You can add an additional paper matte behind your prints but it is not required
- The pictures are to be neatly and securely mounted horizontal or vertical. Dry mounting tissue or spray mount work the best
- No minimum size/max size 5"x7"



HAVE VARIETY ON 10 BOARDS

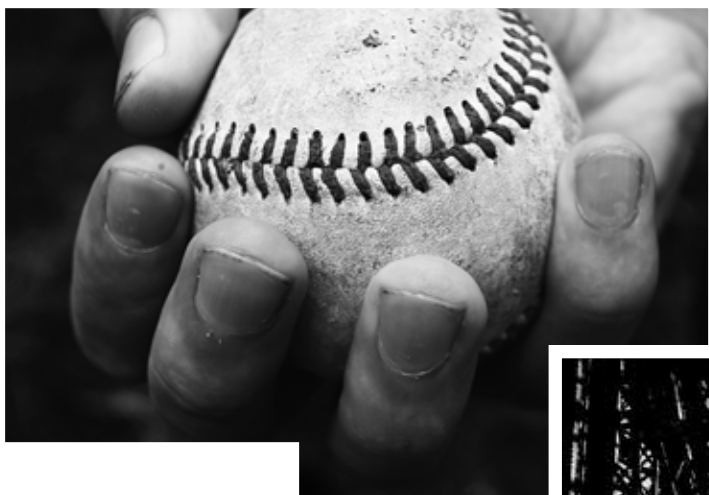
Try to select a variety:

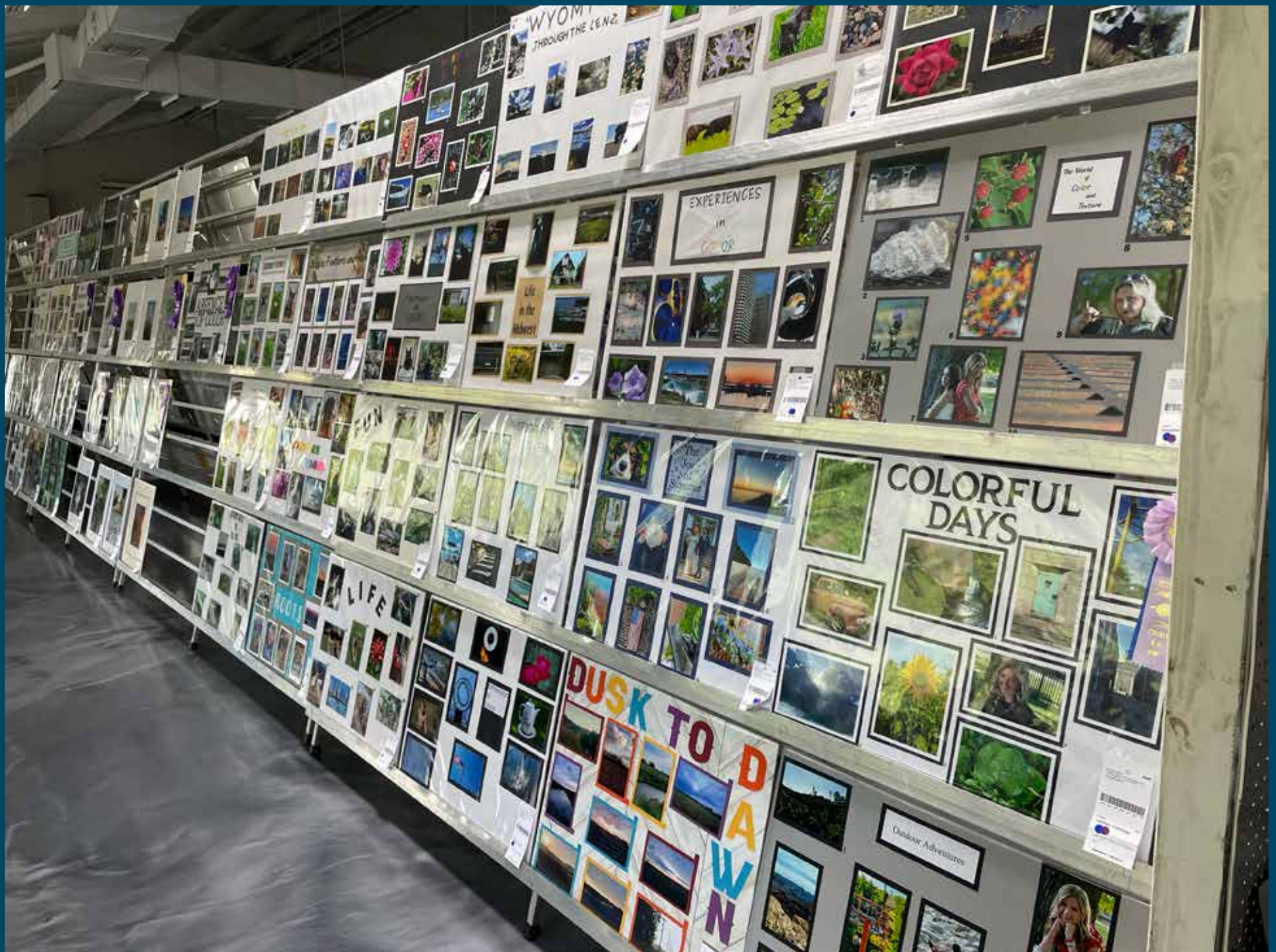
- People
- Animals
- Landscapes
- Still lifes
- Close ups
- Depth of field
- Angles
- Horizontal and vertical orientations
- Print sizes

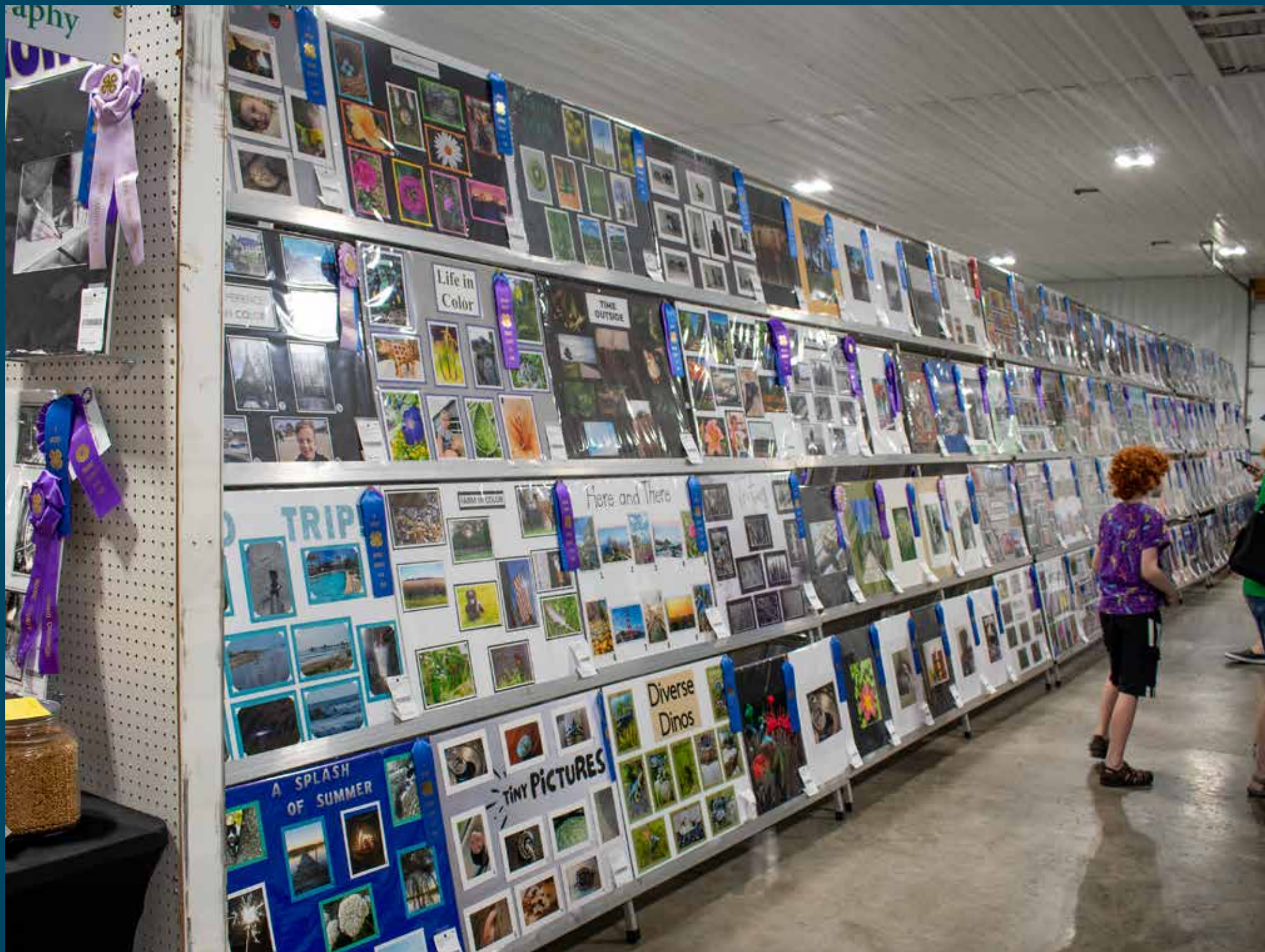


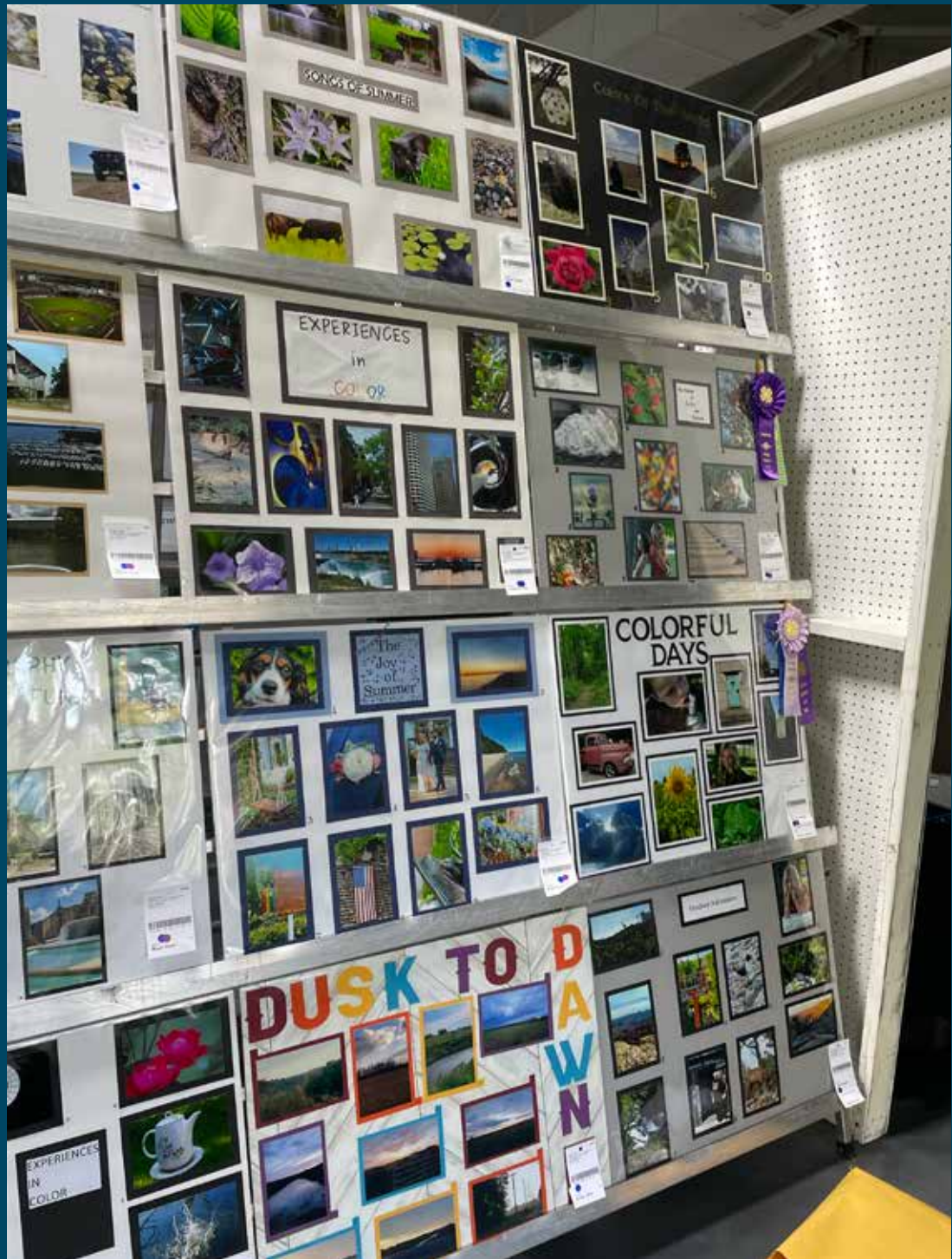
You can have a theme to your board, but you still need variety. Theme boards don't tend to score as high.

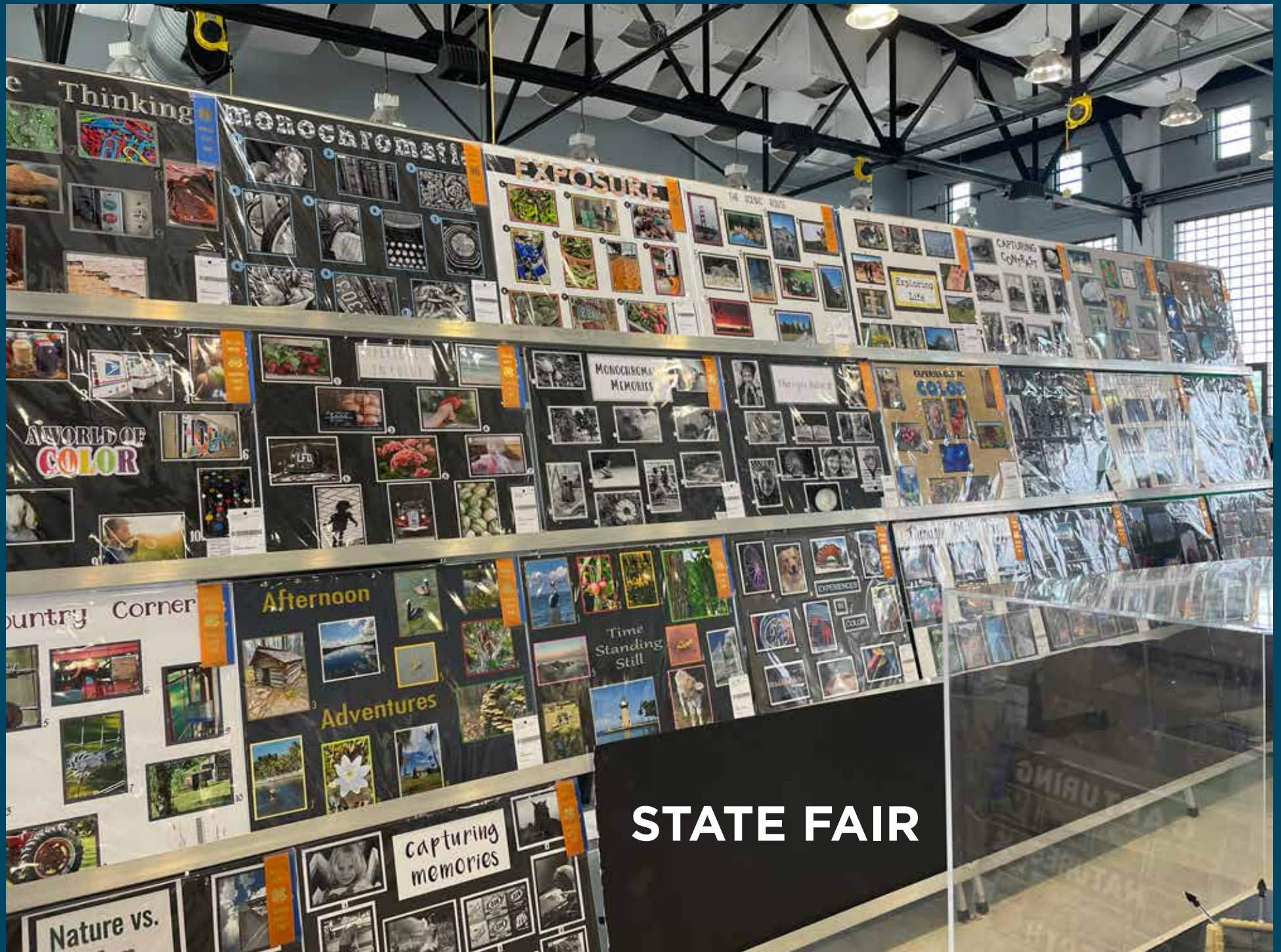












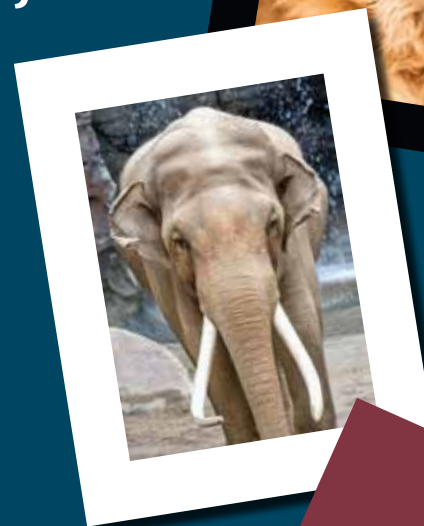
STATE FAIR



STATE FAIR

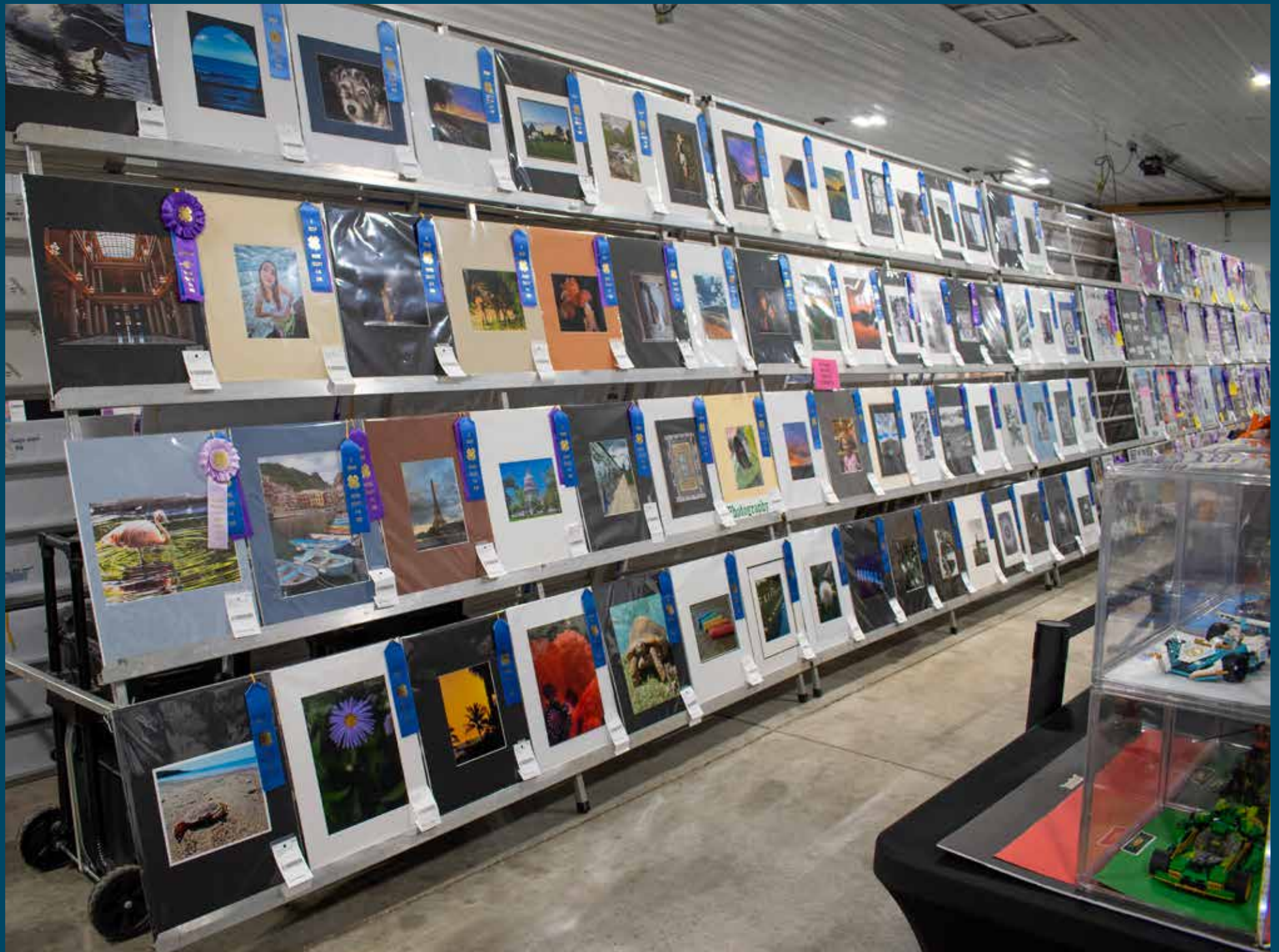
SALON PRINTS

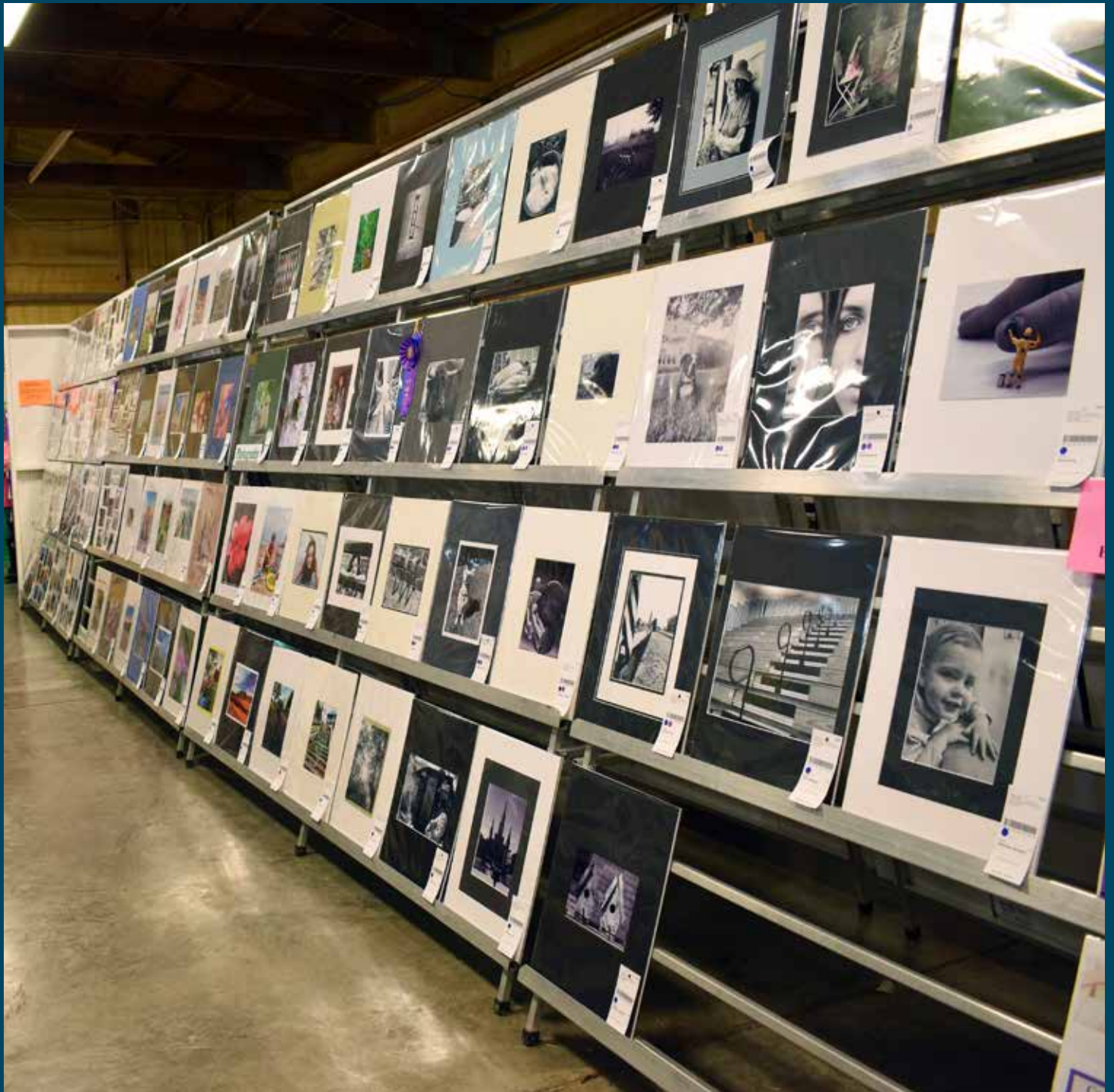
- No minimum size/max size is 11"x 14"
- Print can be horizontal or vertical
- Mounted on 16" x 20" salon mount, displayed vertically **ONLY**
- No title
- Sepia tone photographs (monochromatic) are entered under the Black and White categories



MOUNTING

- Your background board or matte can be any color but should enhance, not compete with your photo.
- Matting is suggested but not required.
- The mounting may be of any color or texture.
- The photo should be neatly and securely mounted.
- Salon mattes are available in most photo and art supply stores. They are available either in plain or with a cutout of the picture area. You may make your own.





CREATIVE/EXPERIMENTAL

- Same guidelines as a salon print and can be color or black & white.
- Must include the original photos on the back side of the board, a description of how the image was altered, and equipment/software used to alter the image.
- You need to have shot or created all the parts used in the final image. DO NOT use photos off the internet, even if it is for just part of your final image.



- You can use all original photos you have shot, create colored backgrounds and parts digitally or paint a canvas and scan it or shoot a photo of it. BE CREATIVE!
- It becomes a creative/experimental photo when you replace any pixels of the original digital image, this includes—but not limited to—using artificial intelligence (AI), any erasing tool, healing tool, patch tool, or any tool that replaces any of the original pixels.
- Make sure changes are apparent and it just doesn't look like a unchanged photo. Try to wow the judges.



USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work.



EDITING SOFTWARE

Adobe Photoshop (Best)

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Affinity Photo

Capture One

DxO PhotoLab

Corel PaintShop Pro

Skylum Luminar Neo

CyberLink PhotoDirector

PhotoWorks

FREE CHOICES

WEB-BASED SOFTWARE

Photopea

Pixlr E

Canva

Fotor

Adobe Express

DESKTOP SOFTWARE

GIMP

Darktable

Photoscape X

Paint.NET

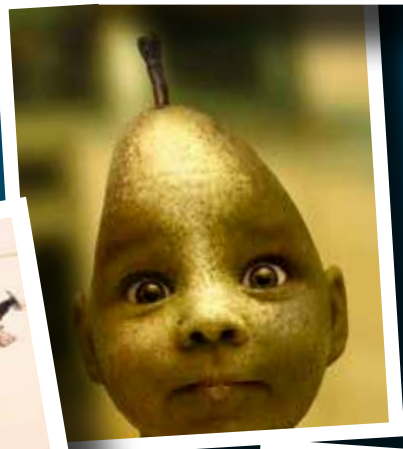
MOBILE APPS

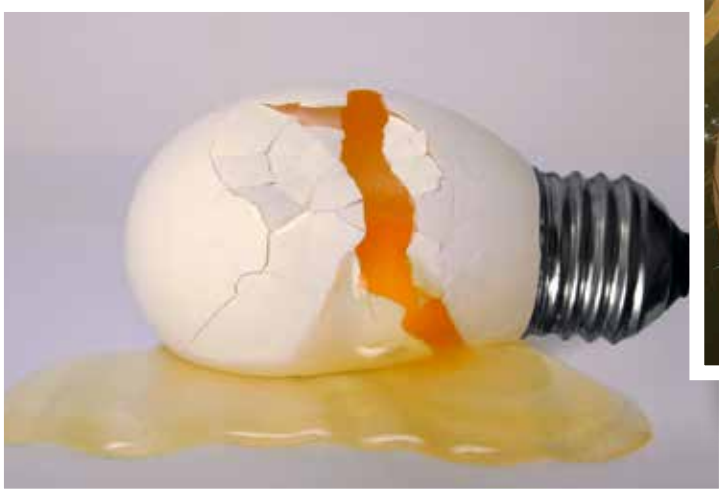
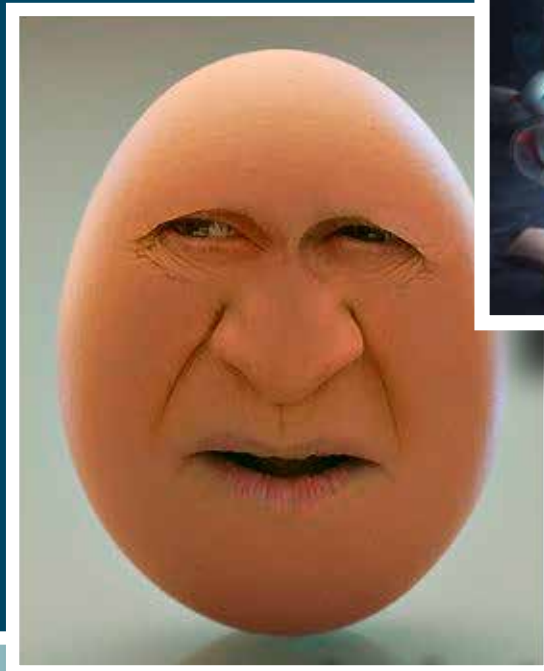
Snapseed

VSCO

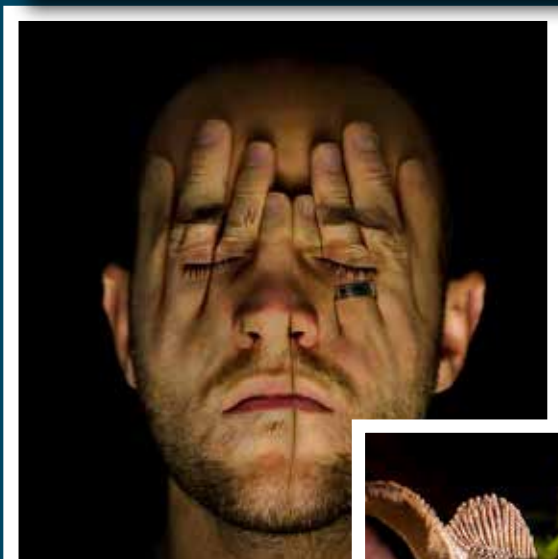
Adobe Lightroom Mobile

THERE ARE MORE IN ALL CATAGORIES











Experiment

Try not to take a lot of shots of almost exactly the same things and end up with very similar results. You can vary your shots in a number of ways.

- Shoot from different perspectives—up high, down low, etc.
- Try getting in close and stepping back for a wider angle shots.
- Move around your subject to shoot from different sides.
- Try different settings on you camera.

Background

Scan the background (and the foreground) of an image and change your framing if there's too many distractions or clutter—you don't want all kinds of objects growing out of your main subject.

Get in Close

Getting in close helps capture the detail of a subject. Use the zoom on your camera, or better yet, use your legs to move closer to fill your frame. Close ups are cool. Remember to use macro for very close ups.

Take Lots of Photos

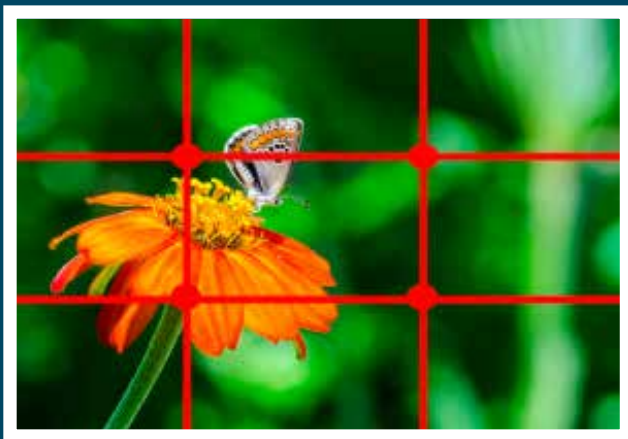
Taking lots of images is a great way to learn different techniques of photography. You don't need to take 100 shots of exactly the same thing—experiment and shoot a variety of people, things and places.

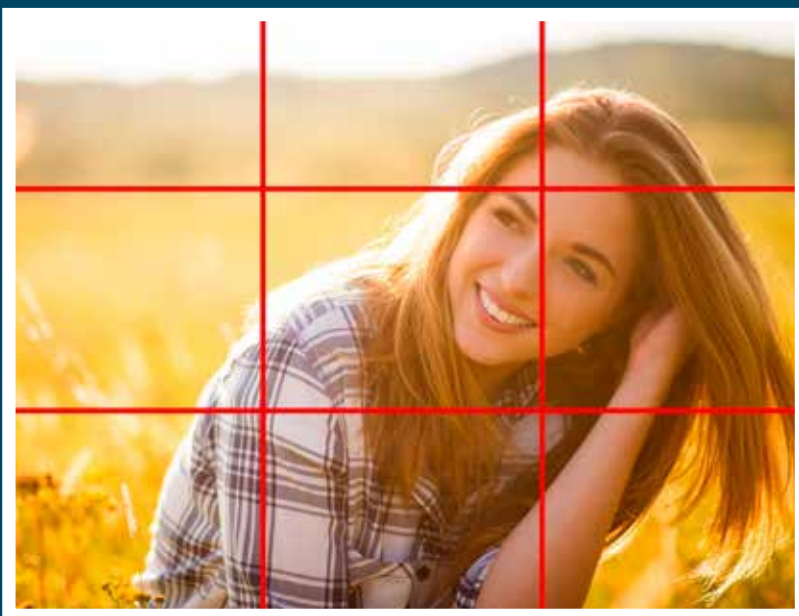
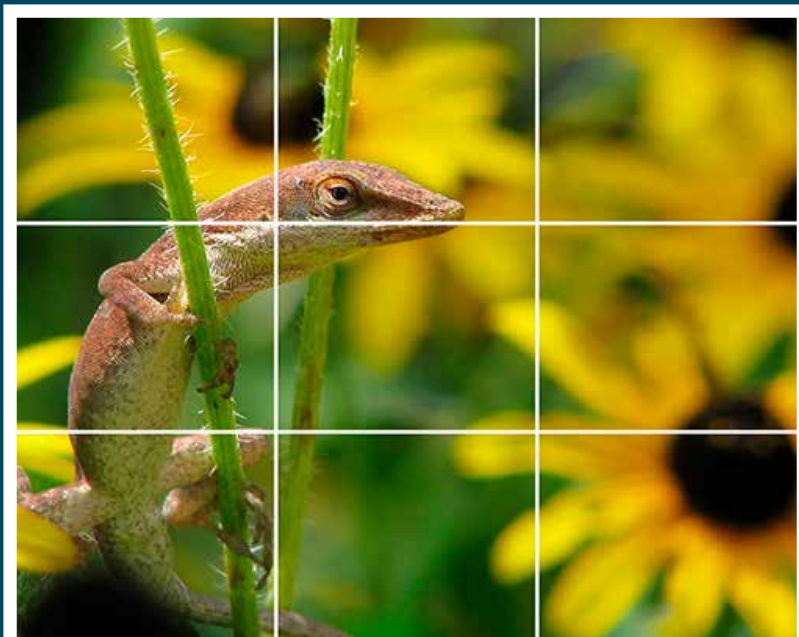
Find a Point of Interest

Interesting photographs have interesting things in them—they need a visual point of interest (a focal point). Once you identified the point of interest, think about how to highlight it.

Rule of Thirds

Imagine breaking an image down into thirds so that you have 9 parts, like a tic-tac-toe grid.





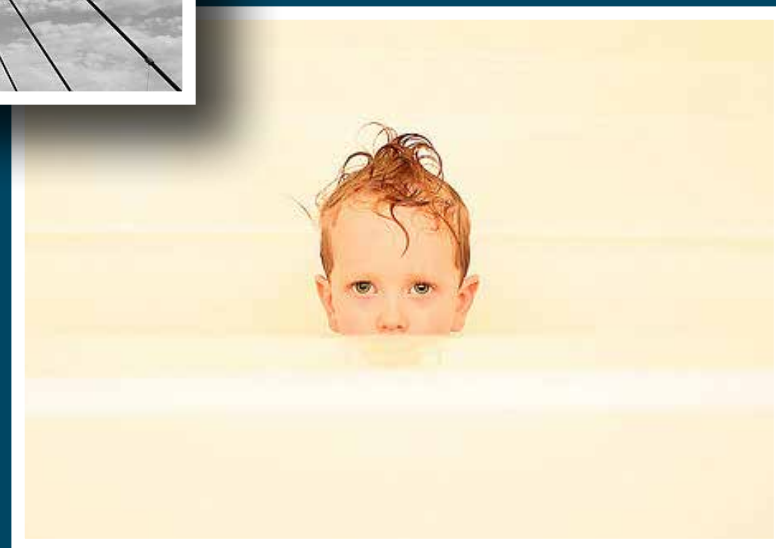
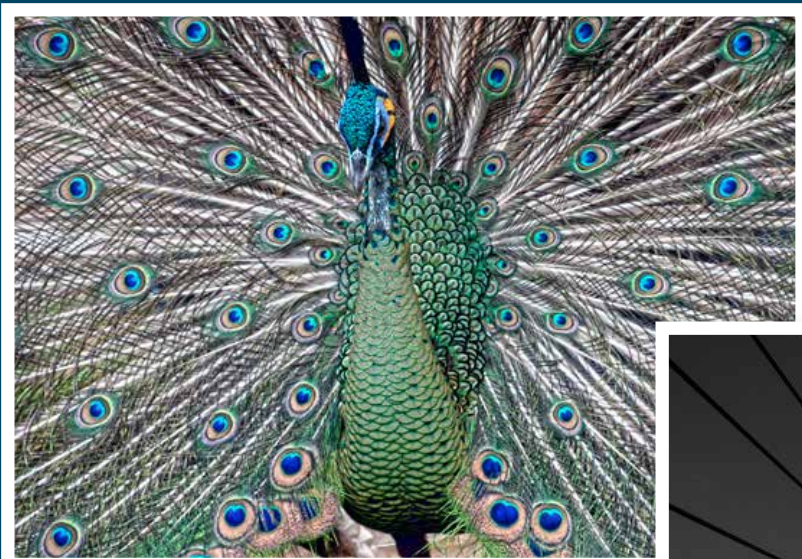
The grid identifies four important parts that you should consider placing points of interest in as you frame your image. It also gives you four lines that are also useful positions for elements in your photo.

People's eyes usually go to one of the intersection points most naturally rather than the center of the shot.






When taking landscape pictures place the horizon on either the upper or lower third line. Do not place the horizon directly in the middle.

You can also break the rule, but make it purposeful. A good reason to break the rule would be a symmetrical composition.





Photography Key Words

In Focus 	The area of the photo that is sharp (you can see it most clearly)
Aperture 	The hole in the lens that lets in light
Depth of Field 	The amount of the image that is in focus
Shutter Speed 	The length of time that the camera sensor is exposed.
Exposure 	The level of brightness of a photo

Some tips on holding your camera steady

- Use a tripod if you can. There are some inexpensive tripods on the market that are perfect for indoor and some outdoor settings.
- Use the timer with a tripod or rest the camera on something.
- Steady yourself against something. Leaning your elbows on a railing or balance against a wall, it can make a big difference.
- Keep your elbows in and your legs apart.

Holding the Camera Steady



Not so Good



Better

CAMERA GUIDELINES

- You can shoot film or digital.
- It does not matter what kind of camera you have.

Megapixel	Recommended Max Print Size (300 DPI)*
2	3 x 5 inches
3	5 x 7 inches
5	8 x 10 inches
6	11 x 14 inches
8	16 x 20 inches
10+	24 x 36 inches

*These are original sizes, not cropped and blown up to these sizes. It is okay to scale down but not up.
If you scale up, your DPI goes down and so does your quality.

DIGITAL ZOOM

Try not to use your digital zoom. Using it will decrease the quality of your shot in a similar way that cropping your shot can.

A digital zoom fills your frame by increasing the size of pixels in your shots and can leave you with a grainy impact. Get in closer, you can always crop your shots and achieve the same results.



Original



10x Optical



10x Digital



DIGITAL CAMERA MODES

Most digital cameras have the ability to switch into modes like 'portrait', 'sports', 'macro', etc.

You can download apps for your cell phone to give you more shooting options.

A AUTOMATIC MODE

Auto mode tells your camera to use it's best judgment to select shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, focus and flash to take the best shot that it can.

With some cameras auto mode lets you override flash or change it to red eye reduction. This mode will give you nice results in many shooting conditions.

PORTRAIT MODE

With portrait mode your camera will keep your background out of focus—your subject is the only thing in focus and is the center of attention in the shot.

Works best when you're photographing a single subject so get in close enough.

If you're shooting into the sun you might want to use your flash to add a little light onto their face.



MACRO MODE

This mode is for taking close up pictures. It's great for shooting flowers, insects or other small objects.

Don't use the built in flash, the photo will be blown out.

A tripod is recommended as the depth of field is so small that even moving towards or away from your subject slightly can make your subject out of focus.

LANDSCAPE MODE

This mode makes sure as much of the scene will be in focus as possible.

Ideal for capturing shots of wide scenes, particularly those with points of interest at different distances from the camera.

You might want to consider a tripod or other method of ensuring your camera is still.



SPORTS MODE

It is ideal for photographing any moving objects including people playing sports, pets, cars, wildlife etc.

Sports mode attempts to freeze the action by increasing the shutter speed. You can also increase your chances of capturing them with panning of your camera.

NIGHT MODE

Night mode is for shooting in low light situations and sets your camera to help capture details of the background but it also fires off a flash to illuminate the foreground.

You should use a tripod or your background will be blurred—it's also fun to take shots with this hand-held to purposely blur your backgrounds—especially when there is a situation with lights behind your subject as it can give a fun and experimental look.

FLASH MODES



Automatic flash will only fire the flash when needed, which the camera determines by reading the available light on the subject.



Automatic flash with red eye reduction works the same as the regular automatic flash mode but attempts to reduce the red eye effect. If you're going to use an automatic flash mode, you might as well use this one.



Forced/Fill-in flash means the flash fires regardless of whether or not the camera believes it's necessary. This is the mode you choose when you know you're always going to need the flash.



Slow shutter flash (with red-eye reduction) is what you want to use in a very low light situation. If you're using an automatic mode, the camera will determine when this is necessary and do it automatically.

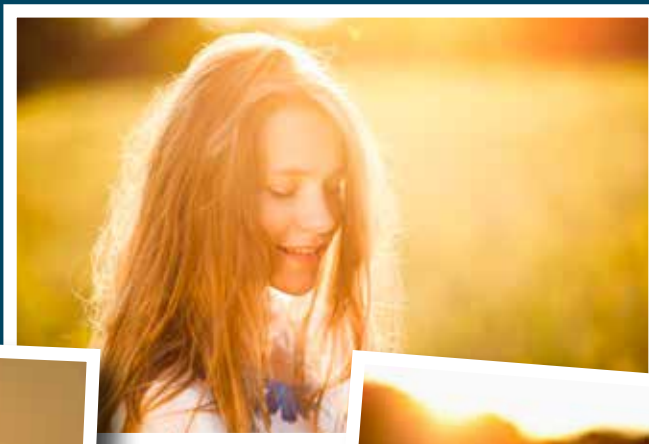


It turns the flash off so it won't be used under any circumstances.

GOLDEN HOUR

The golden hour is the last hour of daylight before the sunset. Think of golden hour as nature's perfect filter for photos as it creates an amazing, soft light that is perfect for photos.

During the golden hour, the sun is at a low angle in the sky, creating longer shadows and flattering lighting situations you can use for more creative effects. Rim lighting, backlighting, side lighting, silhouettes, sunbursts, and lens flares are all at your disposal during the golden hour.



BLUE HOUR

Blue hour photography is just as magical as golden hour photography. Unlike the golden hour, when we have warm golden tones for photos, during blue hour the light is a very cool, deep blue. Photos take on a very different feel during the blue hour.

During the blue hour light changes, in the morning, from deep blue purple to a dark blue and then light blue before the sun rises above the horizon. In the evening the opposite happens—when the sun dips below the horizon the light changes from light blue, to dark blue and then to a deep blue purple.



STORY TELLING

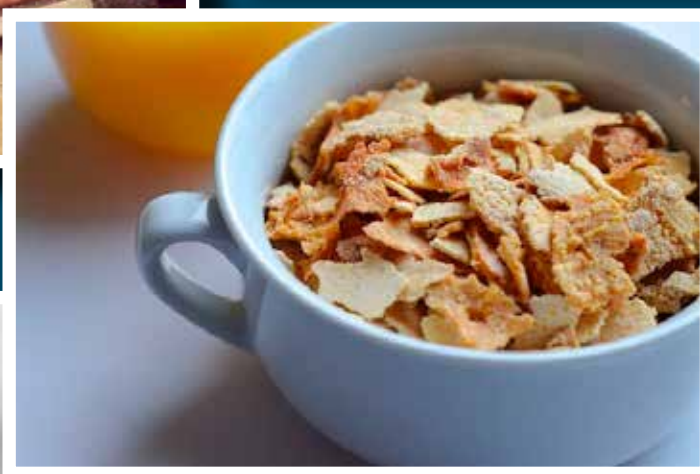
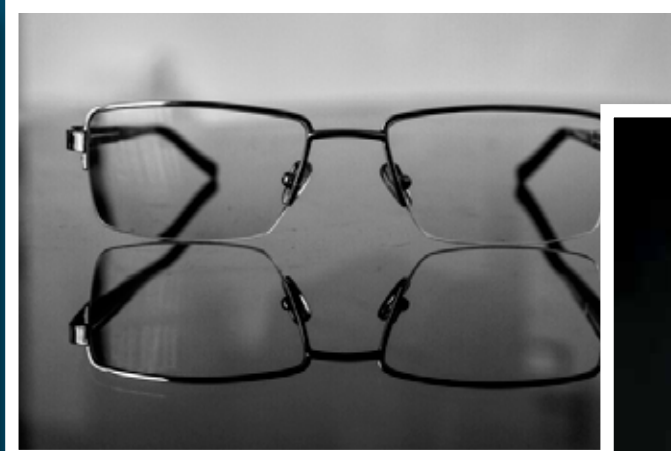
A photo can convey emotion, mood, narrative, ideas and messages. These are the elements that make a statement and tell a story. Does your photo convey a story or evoke an emotion?

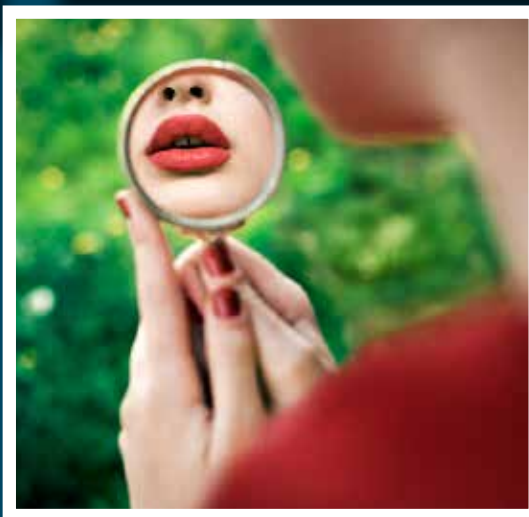
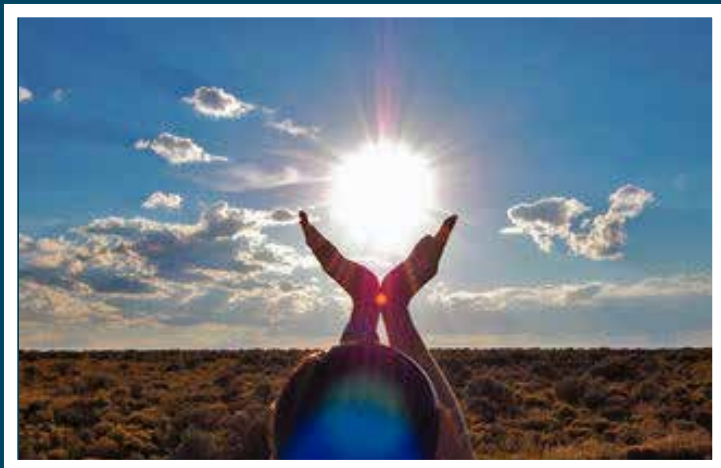




BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN!



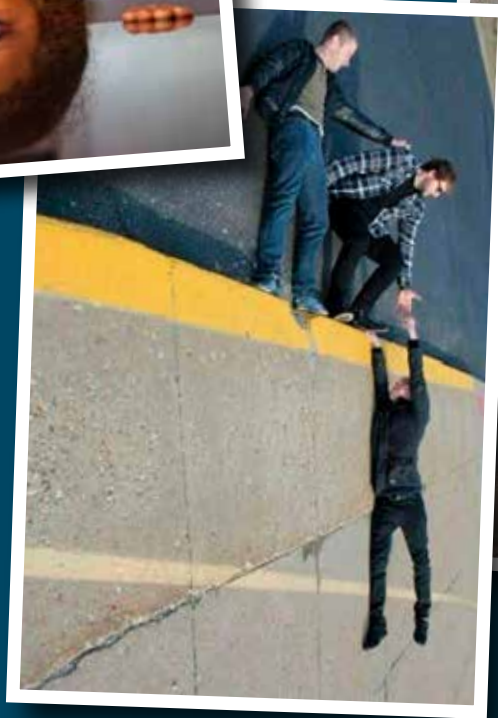


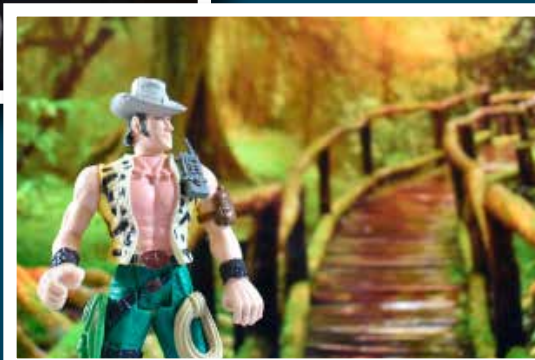




















THINK ABOUT....

- Does it tell a story
- Something of interest
- Focus
- Light
- Color
- Contrast
- Texture
- Shape
- Filling the frame
- Rule of thirds
- Using macro for extreme close-ups
- Background

Please check your workbooks or the internet for more information.

SUGGESTIONS

- Read your project book and do the projects
- Take a variety of subjects
- Take more photos than your project requires so you have plenty to choose from and can select your best
- Shoot horizontal and vertical
- Try different settings on your camera
- Move around and in closer to your subject
- Try different angles
- Try to duplicate a photo you like
- **Most important, be creative and have fun!**

